

WASHINGTON - Today, Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that local

Olver said the strategic plan being developed holds great promise for retaining existing trade

"The strategic plan will chart a course for improving the economy and quality of life in the Northern

Olver praised the progress made by the working group. He added, "They aren't just looking

Mt. Auburn Associates of Northampton, a consulting firm specializing in economic development

A \$150,000 grant Olver secured in the FY2003 federal budget made the work possible.

The Northern Tier region is in northwest Massachusetts, running from the New York border

Armed with these statistics, Olver secured the funding for the Franklin Regional Council of

To date, Mt. Auburn and the steering committee have analyzed the region and chosen several

The working group has identified five key areas tied to the goal of expanding the region's trade

The team considered how each target area would respond to growing market opportunities

The Northern Tier faces unique economic challenges that stem from the loss of its historic

Michael Kane of Mt. Auburn Associates said, "To date, there has not been the kind of analysis

Kane added, "However, manufacturing still remains an important source of good paying jobs

One important step toward improving the economy of the region is to identify new economic

Work on the strategic plan has involved research and interviews. The working group has been

The Northern Tier region includes all towns in Franklin County, the Berkshire County towns

The steering committee includes Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director of the Franklin Regional

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